1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	M/s A.C. Enterprises, Lucknow	0	0	0	17.698	NIL
8.	M/s Ram Associate, Hardoi	0	0	0	15.5	NIL
9.	M/s S & S Enterprises, Etawah	0	0	0	64.574	NIL

Reduced rates by STD/PCO operators

*171. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to ensure that the STD/PCO operators follow the reduced rates;

(b) whether it is a fact that some operators are not operating their charge indicator on metering pulses from the telephones exchange; and

(c) the manner in which the BSNL propose to check the malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) As per existing instructions STD PCO franchisees have to install only duly approved charge-indicators and to operate their STD/ISD PCOs on 16 KHz pulse provided from the exchanges. Use of locally programmable charge-indicators is not permissible. Therefore, the pulses emanated from the exchanges are the only basis for charging and only the new reduced rates are available to the public from all the STD/ISD PCOs which are operating on 16 KHz pulse. The instructions for providing 16 KHz metering pulse on all STD-PCOs have been reiterated to the field offices. Instructions to carry out

surprise visits and inspections have also been reiterated. Checks have also been carried out.

(b) and (c) Use of locally programmable charge-indicator is not permitted. Franchisees are also to display latest tariff charts for the benefit of users. Any violation of these requirements can lead to termination of the franchisees.

Sugar Production

*172. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's sugar production has fallen by over five per cent to 17.5 million tonnes in the current year;

(b) if so, whether the country produced a record 18.5 million tonnes of sugar in 2000-01, up from 18.2 million in the previous year;

(c) the States where sugar production has fallen;

(d) the main reasons for the same; and

(e) the steps proposed to be considered to improve sugar output in 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) The sugar production during the current season 2001-02 is expected to be around 17.5 million tonnes as against 18.42 million tonnes (Provisional) during the previous season (2000-01), indicating a fall of about 5%.

(b) The sugar production during the seasons 2000-01 was 18.42 million tonnes as against 18.19 million tonnes during the previous season (1999-2000).

(c) and (d) The fall in production of sugar is mainly in the State of Maharashtra. According to the Government of Maharashtra, the